

Clean Version of Claims:

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1. (Amended) A mechanical joint for use in the construction of an article, said joint comprising:

a first member for connection with a second member, and wherein said first member is provided with an opening defined by first and second edges, said opening provided for the reception of the an insert and, to form the joint, the first or second edges of the opening are moved to engage the insert within the aperture and wherein the opening is formed by removing material from the first member to leave a band of material at said opening.

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3. (Amended) A mechanical joint according to claim 1 wherein said second member lies in a plane substantially perpendicular to the plane of the longitudinal axis of said first member.

4. (Amended) A mechanical joint according to claim 1 wherein said first member is provided in an initial condition in an elongate form and the movement of said first and second edges of the opening of said aperture is about a pivotal axis located in said aperture or adjacent thereto so that said first member, when the joint is formed has relatively angled first and second portions at or adjacent to the formed joint.

5. (Twice Amended) A mechanical joint according to claim 1 wherein said opening is formed so as to extend from one side of the first member substantially across the majority of the first member to the opposite side leaving a band of material at the opposite side.

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6. (Twice Amended) A mechanical joint according to claim 1 wherein an insert is provided in said opening and has upper and lower collars which protrude respectively above or below the first member.

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8. (Amended) A mechanical joint according to claim 1 wherein said second member is attached to an insert held within the opening.

9. (Twice Amended) A method of forming a mechanical joint, said method comprising the following steps:

taking a first elongated member, forming an aperture depending from one edge of said member;

positioning a member or insert in the aperture; and

moving the first member to move first and second edges of the opening towards one another to a degree to trap and engage the insert in the opening.

10. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 9 wherein said first and second edges are respectively moved so as to substantially close the opening and hence retain insert in position in said aperture.

11. (Amended) A method according to claim 9 wherein the opening is completely closed by the provision of a closing member.

14. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 9 wherein said former is an insert which is retained in position and to which said second member is connected.

18. A method according to claim 9 wherein the opening is completely closed by the provision of weld material.

19. (New) A mechanical joint according to Claim 1 wherein a forming means is provided initially in the opening and is subsequently moved out of the opening and replaced by the insert which is held in position in the opening in the first member to form the mechanical joint.